

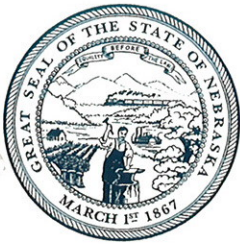
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STATE OF NEBRASKA
Office of the Attorney General

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attorney General Jon Bruning
Guest Column: November 24, 2004
Contact: Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

Giving to Charity this Holiday Season

The holiday season is that time of year when Nebraskans open their hearts and wallets to help those in need. In doing so, it's important to remember that there are people out there who will take advantage of the season and your generosity.

While most requests for donations are legitimate, many others are not. It's not uncommon for fraudulent telemarketers, door-to-door solicitors, and Internet spammers to claim they represent charitable organizations. These scam artists may try to solicit a contribution from you or try to sell you a product that they claim will benefit a charity or other group.

If you are unfortunate enough to fall victim to one of their scams, the con artists may put your name on a so-called "sucker list" that will generate even more solicitations from scammers.

Below are a few tips on how you can protect yourself from fraud and make your holiday giving a pleasant experience:

- Do not make an immediate decision on giving, especially if you are not familiar with the charity. Ask for information to be mailed to you before making a donation.
- Ask for and write down the name of the charity, address, and phone number.
- Ask if the caller is a paid fundraiser for the charity. Fundraisers are allowed to keep a percentage of the money collected to pay for their services.
- Ask how the donation will be used. What percentage will go for administrative costs? What percentage goes to the professional fundraiser? What percentage will actually be used to fund the charity's programs?
- Watch out for charities with similar sounding names.
- Call the charity to find out if they are aware of the solicitation being made.
- If you do not want to be called again, ask to be placed on the charity's "do-not-call" list.
- Refuse high pressure appeals or appeals meant to tug at your heart-strings.
- Do not give cash. Legitimate charities will accept checks or credit cards. A con artist does not want a paper trail.

If you want additional information on a charity, or if a charity is not honoring your request to be put on their "do-not-call" list, contact the Nebraska Attorney General's Office 800-727-6432, 402-471-2682 or at www.ago.state.ne.us. En Espanol, 402-471-3891 o llamada gratuita, 888-850-7555.



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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 24, 2004, 3:00 p.m. CT

CONTACT:
Regan Anson, AGO, 402-471-2067
Brian Rockey, Lottery, 402-471-6104

Attorney General Bruning, Lottery Officials Warn Nebraskans about Internet Lottery Scam

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today warned consumers about an e-mail scam that tells recipients they have won a prize from the "Nebraska Lottery/Bill Gate (sic) Foundation" and eventually asks for a processing fee.

Describing itself as a "global lottery program," the e-mail scam tells potential victims they have been randomly selected to receive a cash prize and asks them to e-mail their name, telephone number and mailing address to a "fiduciary agent." There is even a fictitious ticket number assigned to the e-mail. Once recipients provide their information, the scam then asks for bank designation information and instructs them to send a processing fee of \$85 to an address in Ghana.

Attorney General Bruning warned consumers that there is no such arrangement between the Nebraska Lottery and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (the e-mail even misspells the foundation's name).

"These are scam artists who are trying to get personal information from Nebraskans so they can clean out their bank accounts," Attorney General Bruning said. "Never respond to e-mail solicitations for money, and never give out your personal information. Remember, claiming a Nebraska Lottery prize is not complicated and doesn't require a fee. The Nebraska Lottery does not contact those who have not already purchased a ticket or entered a contest."

This latest scam is a variation on the commonly known attempts by individuals to defraud others of large sums of cash allegedly needed to claim a lottery prize. In those instances the criminal claims to have a major winning ticket but a shortage of funds necessary to claim the prize, and offers the victim a share of the prize in return for a loan of the prize claim fee.

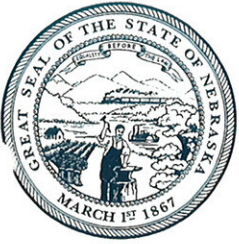
(more)

Internet Lottery Scam, Page 2
November 24, 2004

Acting Lottery Director Jim Haynes said, "When this scam came to our attention, we contacted the Attorney General's Office. Nebraska Lottery prizes can be claimed at retailers, by mail or in person at a claim center." Information on claiming Nebraska Lottery prizes can be found on the Nebraska Lottery Web site at www.nelottery.com or by calling 800-587-5200.

For additional information on this scam or other types of consumer fraud, contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at 800-727-6432 or 402-471-2682. En Espanol, 402-471-3891 o llamada gratuita, 888-850-7555.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 24, 2004, 4:30 p.m. CT

CONTACT:
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

Attorney General Bruning Announces Supreme Court Ruling in Hessler Murder Case

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced that his office has prevented accused murderer Jeffrey Hessler from further delaying the start of his trial. He is accused of the abduction, rape and murder of Scottsbluff newspaper carrier Heather Guerrero.

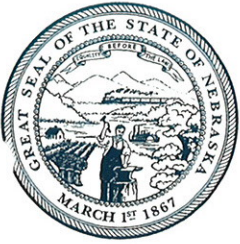
Last Friday, Hessler filed a request that the Nebraska Supreme Court delay the start of his trial and entertain a third pre-trial appeal of a district court ruling. Attorney General Bruning, in cooperation with the Scotts Bluff County Attorney's Office, filed documents on Monday opposing Hessler's motion seeking a stay of his trial. The Nebraska Supreme Court entered an order this afternoon dismissing both Hessler's request for a stay and the pre-trial appeal.

Attorney General Bruning said, "This trial has already been delayed for nearly 10 months. Everyone is anxious for some closure in this case, and further delays would only serve to prolong the suffering of the Guerrero family."

Hessler's trial has been scheduled to begin Monday, Nov. 29.

The state's pleadings were handled by Solicitor General J. Kirk Brown and Assistant Attorney General Kimberly Klein.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

The following column was originally sent to Nebraska weekly newspapers on November 5, 2004. We are reissuing a corrected version after receiving additional information from the Nebraska Department of Banking and Finance. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Attorney General Jon Bruning
REVISED Guest Column: November 19, 2004
Contact: Regan Anson 402-471-2067

REVISED: Check 21 Legislation Takes Effect

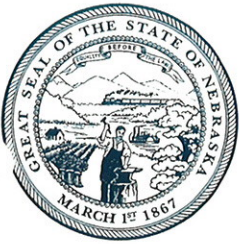
I'm writing today to notify Nebraska consumers of a new federal law that recently took effect throughout the country. The "Check 21" legislation, as it is referred to, could affect how your checks are processed, how your checking account is handled by your bank and how quickly your money changes hands.

Under the new law, checks *may* be handled electronically through the creation of a new instrument called a substitute check. The substitute check, which will be imaged from the original paper version, has the same legal status as the original check. Merchant written information such as driver's license number or phone number will also be included in the image.

Check 21 will affect your account in the following ways:

- **The time between writing your check and the money leaving your account may be significantly less.** It's important to ensure that sufficient funds are available to cover every check you write to accommodate for any lack of "float time."
- **You may no longer receive all of your cancelled checks.** And in some cases, checks may not be retained once they have been copied digitally. However, you can ask for substitute checks. Fees may be charged for issuing a substitute check, however, banks are required to notify you in advance of any associated fees.

The best thing you can do is talk to your individual bank to see how they plan to handle the new regulations. If you would like more information about Check 21, contact our Consumer Protection Division at 800-727-6432 or 402-471-2682. En Espanol, 402-471-3891 o llamada gratuita, 888-850-7555.



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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 19, 2004, 12:00 p.m. CT

CONTACT:
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

State Wins Appeal in Jeremiah Fields Case

Lenient Sentence Vacated by Nebraska Supreme Court, Remanded to Douglas County District Court for Resentencing

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced that the Nebraska Supreme Court has vacated the sentence of convicted rapist Jeremiah Fields and sent the case back to Douglas County District Court for resentencing.

Attorney General Bruning appealed the case due to the excessively lenient sentence handed down by Douglas County District Court Judge Gregory M. Schatz. Fields was originally sentenced to 10 to 15 years in prison for raping, gagging, whipping, robbing and beating a 43-year-old mentally challenged woman in Omaha. With good time credits under the original sentence, he could have been eligible for parole in four years and eligible for mandatory release in 6 ½ years.

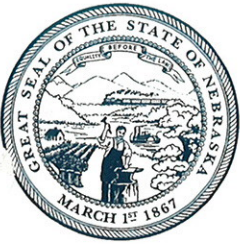
A different judge will preside over the resentencing. Fields faces up to 175 years in prison and more than \$35,000 in fines. He is currently awaiting trial on a charge of conspiring from jail to kill his victim.

Attorney General Bruning said, "The heinous crimes committed by Jeremiah Fields deserve a maximum sentence, not a slap on the wrist. The punishment must fit the crime."

Assistant Attorney General Marie Clarke handled the appeal.

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Editor's Note: An audio clip featuring comments from the Attorney General is now available on the Department of Justice's Web site at www.ago.state.ne.us.



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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 19, 2004, 1:45 p.m. CT

CONTACT:
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

State Wins First-Degree Murder Conviction in Stabbing Case

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced that his office has won a first-degree murder conviction against Danny Ball of rural Lewellen for the Oct. 7, 2003, stabbing death of Randy Tomjack.

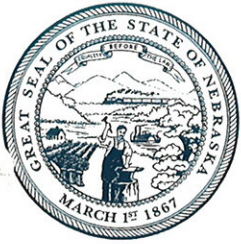
Tomjack, who had been stabbed 58 times, was found dead in a trailer in rural Keith County, north of Lake McConaughy.

Attorney General Bruning said, "The victim's 58 stab wounds shows this was a crime of exceptional depravity and worthy of a first-degree murder conviction."

Ball was also found guilty of the use of a weapon to commit a felony. Sentencing has been set for Jan. 10, 2005, in Keith County District Court in Ogallala.

The Attorney General's Criminal Bureau Chief, Don Kleine, argued the case.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attorney General Jon Bruning
Guest Column: November 12, 2004
Contact: Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

Nebraska's Rest Areas Slated for AMBER Alert Communications Upgrades

We've seen the AMBER Alert program work miracles throughout the country and right here in Nebraska. In greater numbers than ever before, our abducted children are being returned safely into the arms of loved ones. But we must not become complacent in our efforts. As our program matures, it's important that we find new and innovative ways to disseminate information about abducted children.

Recently, I was honored to announce that Nebraska will soon have the capability to stream real-time video to rest areas along Nebraska's 459-mile Interstate 80 corridor, courtesy of a \$368,000 U.S. Department of Justice Protect Act Grant. More than 20 Nebraska rest area travel information center kiosks are slated to receive the upgrade. It's one more way for law enforcement to get vital information out to travelers who may encounter an abductor's vehicle.

Nebraska currently distributes child abduction alerts via several media sources, including 18 overhead electronic message boards along I-80, the 511 advance traveler information phone system and the NETV Emergency Broadcast System. At this time, more than 150 radio and television stations and more than 175 local law enforcement agencies participate in the Nebraska AMBER Plan.

The new rest area project will utilize the broadcast capacity of the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission and the Nebraska Department of Roads' Advance Traveler Information System. While limited installation will be required at each candidate site, including satellite dishes and other needed upgrades, the cost per site will be less than \$10,000.

A portion of the grant funds, \$250,000, will also be used to procure one additional interstate highway overhead electronic message board for Omaha metro area. Any remaining funding will come from the Nebraska Department of Roads.

Nebraska's AMBER Alert program is a cooperative effort of the Attorney General's Office, Nebraska AMBER Plan Committee, Department of Roads, Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission, State Patrol, Department of Economic Development's Division of Tourism and the Nebraska Lottery.

For additional information on Nebraska's AMBER Alert program, visit our Web site at www.ago.state.ne.us.



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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attorney General Jon Bruning
Guest Column: November 5, 2004
Contact: Regan Anson 402-471-2067

Check 21 Legislation Takes Effect

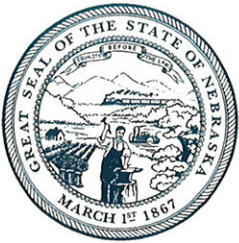
I'm writing today to notify Nebraska consumers of a new federal law that recently took effect throughout the country. The "Check 21" legislation, as it is referred to, will affect how your checking account is handled by your bank and how quickly your money changes hands.

Under the new law, all checks will be handled electronically through the creation of a new instrument called a substitute check. The substitute check, which will be imaged from the original paper version, has the same legal status as the original check. Merchant written information such as driver's license number or phone number will also be included in the image.

Check 21 will affect your account in the following ways:

- **There will be no time between writing your check and the money leaving your account.** The money will be taken from your account immediately as if you were using a debit card. It will also make it more difficult to stop payment on a check.
- **You will no longer receive your cancelled checks.** Cancelled paper checks will be destroyed after they have been copied digitally. However, you can ask for substitute checks. The bank may charge you a fee for providing them with your monthly bank statement, so you may want to shop around for the lowest fees.
- **With the new system there is a chance that your check could be run through your account twice.** Watch your account closely and notify your bank of any discrepancies. You will need a copy of your substitute check to prove the error.
- **Your bank may ask you to agree to "voluntary check truncation."** Doing so means you give up your right to have copies of your substitute checks returned to you.

The best thing you can do is talk to your bank and see how they plan to handle the new regulations. If you would like more information about Check 21, contact our Consumer Protection Division at 800-727-6432 or 402-471-2682. En Espanol, 402-471-3891 o llamada gratuita, 888-850-7555.



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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

** The 800 number previously listed was incorrect. The number is 800-727-6432. Sorry for the confusion.*

*****REVISED Consumer Alert: November 5, 2004*****

Diversity Visa Lottery Scam

Attorney General Jon Bruning issued a fraud warning today to Nebraska's Spanish-speaking consumers regarding an e-mail scam purporting to notify immigrants of their selection in the Diversity Visa Lottery (DV Lottery). The Attorney General warns that various Web sites and e-mails purporting to be from the United States government have been circulating throughout Nebraska.

The e-mails congratulate the recipient as the lucky winner of the national visa lottery program. The e-mail also requests that the recipient mail in a passport photo and acceptance fees that can range from a few hundred dollars to several thousand dollars.

Individuals who receive DV Lottery e-mails should keep in mind the following:

- Diversity Visas are NOT available to people from countries that have sent more than 50,000 immigrants to the United States in the last five years. This includes Canada and Mexico, among others.
- Applicants selected in the Diversity Visa random drawing are notified by regular mail by the Department of State Kentucky Consular Center to proceed to the next steps in visa processing. No other organization or office is authorized to send notification.
- For information about the legitimate Diversity Visa Lottery or other visa and greencard programs, visit www.uscis.gov, www.travel.state.gov or contact your country's Consular office.

Consumers who believe they have been a victim of this scam should contact Renee Martinez-Junck, Latino outreach coordinator for the Nebraska Department of Justice, at (800) 727-6432 or en espanol at (888) 850-7555. Consumers can also contact the Federal Trade Commission at www.econsumer.gov.

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*****Anuncio de Consumidor*****

5 de noviembre de 2004

Diversity Visa Lottery Scam

El Procurador General Jon Bruning emitió una advertencia de fraude hoy a los consumidores latinos de Nebraska con respecto a una estafa de correo electrónico. Este estafa sirve para notificar los inmigrantes de su selección en la Diversity Visa Lottery ("DV lotería"). La oficina del procurador general advierte que varios sitios del internet y correos electrónicos queriendo ser del gobierno de los EE.UU. han estado circulando en Nebraska.

Estos correos electrónicos felicitan la persona como el ganador del DV lotería de visado nacional. Estos mensajes piden que la persona envíe un foto de pasaporte y dinero de unos cuantos cientos dólares a varios miles de dólares.

Personas que han recibido estos correos electrónicos del DV lotería deben entender lo siguiente:

1. Los visados de la legítima DV lotería no son válidos para personas de países que han mandado más de 50,000 inmigrantes a los EE.UU. en los últimos 5 años. Esto incluye Canadá y México, entre otros.
2. Las personas que califican para la legítima DV lotería sean notificados por correo regular por el Departamento del Estado Centro Consular de Kentucky para proceder a los próximos pasos en el proceso de visado. Ningún otra organización u oficina son autorizadas para enviar notificación.
3. Para información sobre la legítima Diversity Visa Lottery u otros programas de visa o permiso de residencia, visite www.uscis.gov o www.travel.state.gov o avise la oficina consular de su país.

Consumidores que han sido víctima de este estafa deben avisar Renee Martinez-Junck, en el Departamento de Justicia de Nebraska a (800) 727-6432 o en español a (888) 850-7555 o avise la Comisión Federal de Comercio en www.econsumer.gov.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

*****Consumer Alert: November 5, 2004*****

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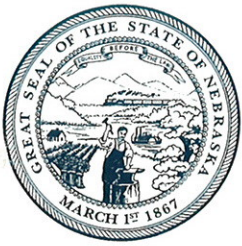
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- Diversity Visas are NOT available to people from countries that have sent more than 50,000 immigrants to the United States in the last five years. This includes Canada and Mexico, among others.
- Applicants selected in the Diversity Visa random drawing are notified by regular mail by the Department of State Kentucky Consular Center to proceed to the next steps in visa processing. No other organization or office is authorized to send notification.
- For information about the legitimate Diversity Visa Lottery or other visa and greencard programs, visit www.uscis.gov, www.travel.state.gov or contact your country's Consular office.

Consumers who believe they have been a victim of this scam should contact Renee Martinez-Junck, Latino outreach coordinator for the Nebraska Department of Justice, at (800) 727-6435 or en espanol at (888) 850-7555. Consumers can also contact the Federal Trade Commission at www.econsumer.gov.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 1, 2004, 4:30 p.m. CT

CONTACT:
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

**Attorney General Bruning to Argue Delgado Case
Before the Nebraska Supreme Court TOMORROW;
Media Availability to Follow**

Attorney General Jon Bruning will argue the state's case against Henry "Rick" Delgado before the Nebraska Supreme Court at 9:00 a.m. CT tomorrow, Tuesday, Nov. 2.

Delgado is appealing his sentence of life in prison for the kidnapping and sexual assault of an 8-year-old Scottsbluff girl on April 18, 2004. Delgado is appealing on the grounds that the trial judge should not have allowed him to represent himself at trial.

Attorney General Bruning will be available to answer media questions immediately following his argument before the Supreme Court at approximately 10:00 a.m. CT in Room 2115 at the State Capitol in Lincoln. For a live, interactive audio feed dial 866-247-0709 and code 402-471-2682 at the prompt.

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